



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 5:15 a.m. EST (NOAA)

### **Agricultural Weather Highlights - Friday - March 8, 2002**

- C ***In the West***, rain and snow showers are pushing farther inland, helping to replenish moisture reserves in ***mountain watersheds*** but resulting in drier weather along the ***Pacific Coast***.
- C ***On the Plains***, scattered snow showers continue across the north, providing additional protection from this morning's sub-zero temperatures. Unseasonable warmth lingers in the ***southern Plains***, spurring early winter wheat development.
- C ***In the Corn Belt***, another batch of wintery precipitation is developing in the ***upper Midwest***, increasing snow cover and hampering transportation. Mild weather continues across the ***Ohio Valley***.
- C ***In the South***, warm, dry weather continues to promote spring fieldwork and pasture and winter grain growth. Highs in the middle to upper 70s degrees F are expected today across ***Texas and the Southeast***.

**Outlook:** Over the weekend, the winter storm complex that is currently intensifying over the Nation's mid-section will bring rain and snow to much of the ***Midwest and New England***. Severe weather may develop along a front extending from the ***Delta to the western Corn Belt***. Mild weather will continue ahead of the storm system, encompassing much of the ***Southeast and mid-Atlantic*** but cold weather will linger over the ***northern Plains***. In the ***West***, rain will gradually redevelop along the ***northern Pacific Coast***, as snow showers linger in the ***northern Rockies***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for March 13-17 calls for a continuation of unseasonable warmth across the ***Southwest and much of the east***, including ***New England***, the ***Ohio Valley***, and the ***Southeast***. Cooler-than-normal weather is forecast for the ***Pacific Northwest, Great Plains***, and the ***upper Midwest***. Dry weather is expected in the ***southern Plains*** and much of ***Florida***. Above-normal precipitation is forecast across the ***northern Plains*** and from the ***Ohio Valley to New England***.

***Contact:*** Mark Brusberg, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB, Washington, D.C. (202-720-3508)